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(54) METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PHASE DIFFERENCE COMPENSATING FILM (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for efficiently manufacturing a phase difference compensating film which is little in bowing, has a slow axis direction facing a direction orthogonal with the longitudinal direction of the film and is good in accuracy of a slow axis angle in sequential biaxial stretching of subjecting a thermoplastic resin film to longitudinal stretching, then to lateral stretching.

SOLUTION: The method for manufacturing the phase difference compensating film comprises sequential biaxial stretching of subjecting the thermoplastic resin film to longitudinal stretching, then to lateral stretching. In the longitudinal stretching, the thermoplastic resin film is longitudinally stretched in such a manner that its retardation value attains 20 to 150 nm. In the lateral stretching, the progression angle at the end of the thermoplastic resin film is specified to a range from 8 to 20 degrees outward with respect to the progression direction of the thermoplastic resin film prior to extension and the state thereof is continued to hold the distance ≥2 times the width of the thermoplastic resin film prior to the extension.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

It is a manufacturing method of a phase difference compensation film by serial biaxial stretching which carries out lateral orientation after carrying out vertical extension of the thermoplastic resin film, Vertical extension of the thermoplastic resin film is carried out so that retardation values may be set to 20–150 nm in a vertical stretching process, When transforming a thermoplastic resin film crosswise (TD direction) in a lateral orientation process, A manufacturing method of a phase difference compensation film which makes an advancing angle of a thermoplastic resin film end outward the range of 8 to 20 degrees to a direction of movement of a thermoplastic resin film before extension, and is characterized by a more than twice as many thing which it continues doing for distance maintenance as width of a thermoplastic resin film before widening the state.

[Claim 2]

A manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 1, wherein the direction of a lagging axis is the cross direction (TD direction) of a phase difference compensation film.

[Claim 3]

A manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein thermoplastics is thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin.

[Claim 4]

Claim 1 A phase difference compensation film manufactured with a manufacturing method of a phase difference compensation film given in 2 or 3.

[Claim 5]

An elliptical polarization film which comes to laminate a phase difference compensation film according to claim 4 and a polarization film.

[Claim 6]

A liquid crystal display using the phase difference compensation film according to claim 4 at least one sheet.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to the manufacturing method of a phase difference compensation film, the phase difference compensation film manufactured with the manufacturing method, the elliptical polarization film using it, and a liquid crystal display.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

Perpendicular orientation type liquid crystal (generally called VA liquid crystal) whose display quality of a liquid crystal display is improving remarkably in recent years and which has a wide viewing angle and the feature of high contrast in big screen uses, such as a liquid crystal television and a monitor, especially It is becoming in use.

[0003]

However, although the liquid crystal is carrying out orientation of this liquid crystal vertically as the name suggests, in order to compensate the light which passed through that, it needs to have in a sake what has a perpendicularly short index ellipsoid, and optically biaxial [which are generally called negative AMPAN]. A phase difference compensation film here specifically refers to 1.5 or more things by Nz coefficient, and are two or more things more preferably.

(In addition Nz=Re/Rth+0.5=|nx-nz|/|nx-ny|)

Re=|nx-ny|xd

Rth= $[|nx+ny| / 2-nz] \times d$

Here, nx, ny, and nz express the refractive index for length, width, and depth all directions, respectively, and d expresses thickness. When it extends to a x direction in the usual uniaxial stretched film, it becomes nx>ny=nz and Nz is set to 1.0 with it.

[0005]

Although various manufacturing methods of this phase difference compensation film have been proposed from the former, after carrying out vertical extension of the thermoplastic resin film, these days, the serial biaxial-stretching method which carries out lateral orientation is becoming in use.

[0006]

However, if a phase difference compensation film is manufactured by the describing [above] serial biaxial—stretching method, when carrying out lateral orientation and the speeds of advance in the end and the central part of a film which are called what is called the Boeing differ, Uneven-ization of the orientation direction of a molecule took place crosswise, and the phase difference compensation film with which liquid crystal orientation can be compensated delicately was not obtained.

[0007]

in order to solve this problem, when carrying out lateral orientation, a tenter is used, and the low

angle widening method which makes the difference angle of the rail of a tenter less than 10 degrees is proposed. This method of the measure against the Boeing was [(for example, patent–documents 1 reference)] also insufficient, and the range to which optical axis direction accuracy is settled in less than **1 time was about 60 to 65% of TD width after lateral orientation.

[8000]

[Patent documents 1]

JP,2002-148438.A

[0009]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

This invention is made in view of SUBJECT of the above-mentioned conventional technology, and is a thing.

After carrying out vertical extension of the purpose, in serial biaxial stretching which carries out lateral orientation, there is little Boeing, and the direction of a lagging axis has turned to direction crossing at a right angle to the lengthwise direction of a film, and it is providing the method of manufacturing efficiently a phase difference compensation film with the sufficient accuracy of a lagging—axis angle.

[0010]

The purpose of differing is to provide the elliptic polarization plate which used the above-mentioned phase difference compensation film.

The purpose of differing is to provide the liquid crystal display which used the above-mentioned phase difference compensation film.

[0011]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

A manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 1, It is a manufacturing method of a phase difference compensation film by serial biaxial stretching which carries out lateral orientation after carrying out vertical extension of the thermoplastic resin film, Vertical extension of the thermoplastic resin film is carried out so that retardation values may be set to 20–150 nm in a vertical stretching process, When transforming a thermoplastic resin film crosswise (TD direction) in a lateral orientation process, An advancing angle of a thermoplastic resin film end is made into the range of 8 to 20 degrees outward to a direction of movement of a thermoplastic resin film before extension, and it is characterized by a more than twice as many thing which it continues doing for distance maintenance as width of a thermoplastic resin film before widening the state.

[0012]

A manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 2 is a manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 1, wherein the direction of a lagging axis is the cross direction (TD direction) of a phase difference compensation film.

[0013]

A phase difference compensation film manufactured with a manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 1 has the small Boeing, and 80 to 85% of a

lagging axis after lateral orientation is needed for within the limits which is **1 time to film overall width, and the direction of a lagging axis becomes crosswise [of a phase difference compensation film] (TD direction).

[0014]

If the above-mentioned thermoplastics is the thermoplastics which was excellent in transparency, it will not be limited in particular, For example, thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin, polycarbonate system resin, Pori Sall John system resin, poly-methyl-methacrylate system resin, polystyrene system resin, etc. are mentioned, especially, it excels in matching nature and endurance with a liquid crystal, and thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin with low wavelength dispersion nature and a small photoelastic coefficient is used suitably. [0015]

The above-mentioned thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin is resin currently conventionally used for an optical application film, For example, a ring-opening-polymerization object or a ring breakage copolymer of a (b) norbornene system monomer, After denaturalizing maleic acid addition, cyclopentadiene addition, etc. if needed, Hydrogenated resin, resin to which addition condensation of the (**) norbornene system monomer was carried out, (**) Resin to which addition condensation of a norbornene system monomer and the olefin system monomers, such as ethylene and alpha olefin, was carried out, (**) A denaturation thing etc. of resin which carried out addition condensation to a norbornene system monomer and cyclic olefin system monomers, such as cyclopentene, cyclooctane, and a 5,6-dihydrodicyclopentadiene, and these resin are mentioned.

[0016]

As a norbornene system monomer which constitutes the above-mentioned thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin, For example, norbornene, 5-methyl-2-norbornene, 5-ethyl-2-norbornene, 5-butyl-2-norbornene, 5-ethylidene-2-norbornene, 5-carbomethoxy-2-norbornene, 5,5-dimethyl- 2-norbornene, 5-cyano 2-norbornene, 5-methyl-5-carbomethoxy-2-norbornene, 5-phenyl-2-norbornene, 5-phenyl-5-methyl-2-norbornene, 6-methyl-1,4:5,8dimethano- 1,4,4a,5,6, 7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene, 6-ethyl-1,4:5,8-dimethano- 1,4,4a,5,6, 7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene, 6-ethyl-1,4:5,8-ethylidene-1,4,4a,5,6, 7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene, 6-chloro-1,4:5,8-dimethano- 1,4,4 a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene and 6-cyano 1,4:5,8dimethano-1,4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene, 6-pyridyl 1,4:5,8-dimethano-1,4,4a,5,6, 7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene, 6-carbomethoxy-1,4:5,8-dimethano-1,4,4a,5,6, 7,8,8aoctahydronaphthalene, A 1,4-dimethano- 1,4,4 a,4 b,5,8,8 a,9a-octahydro fluorene, 5,8-methano-1,2,3,4,4 a,5,8,8a-octahydro 2,3-cyclopentadieno naphthalene, 4,9: 5,8-dimethano- 3 a,4,4 a,5,8,8 a,9,9a-octahydro 1H-benzoindene, 4,11: 5,10: 6,9-trimethano 3 a,4,4 a,5,5 a,6,9,9 a,10,10 a,11,11a-dodecahydro-1H-cyclopentaanthracene, A dicyclopentadiene, a 2,3-dihydroxycyclopentadiene, a methano octahydro fluorene, a dimethanohydronaliumoctafluorene, etc. are mentioned. [0017]

A number average molecular weight of the above-mentioned thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin. Since a mechanical strength will fall if it becomes small, and a film moldability will fall if it becomes large, It measures by a gel permeation chromatography by tetrahydrofuran

series solvent or a cyclohexane system solvent, and 5000-40000 are preferred, are 7000-35000 more preferably, and are 8000-30000 still more preferably.

[0018]

The above-mentioned thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin is marketed as a trade name "ARTON" from a J S R company as what has a trade name "ZEONOA" and a polar group from Nippon Zeon Co., Ltd. as what does not have a polar group.

[0019]

In order to raise the heat resistance of a phase difference compensation film, ultraviolet resistance, smooth nature, etc. to the above-mentioned thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin, Ultraviolet ray absorbents, such as lubricant, such as sprays for preventing static electricity, such as heat deterioration inhibitors, such as antiaging agents, such as a phenol system and the Lynn system, and a phenol system, and an amine system, ester of fatty alcohol, and partial ester of polyhydric alcohol, a benzophenone series, and a benzotriazol system, etc. may be added.

[0020]

A method of publicly known arbitrary methods being adopted, for example, a manufacturing method of the above-mentioned thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin film carrying out heat melting with an extrusion machine, and carrying out extrusion molding, a method of dissolving the above-mentioned thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin in an organic solvent of not less than 100 ** of boiling points, and carrying out solution flow casting, etc. are mentioned.

[0021]

As the above-mentioned organic solvent, toluene, xylene, ethylbenzene, chlorobenzene, triethylbenzene, diethylbenzene, isopropylbenzene, etc. are mentioned, for example.

[0022]

Low-boiling point solvents, such as cyclohexane, benzene, a tetrahydrofuran, hexane, and octane, may be mixed and used within limits which may dissolve thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin in the above-mentioned organic solvent.

[0023]

In a manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 1, lateral orientation is carried out, after carrying out vertical extension of the thermoplastic resin film.

[0024]

Arbitrary extension methods with the above-mentioned conventionally publicly known vertical extension may be adopted, and, generally neck-in extension between rolls is performed. Although extension temperature changes with thermoplastics to be used, generally it is preferred. [of the range of glass transition temperature of thermoplastics – the glass transition temperature of +10 **]

[0025]

As for vertical draw magnification, since there is little deformation and the direction of a lagging axis comes to vary that they are less than 1.1 times that it is [as a result] hard in an orientation direction of a molecule of thermoplastics, 1.1 or more times is preferred.

[0026]

If a phase difference value of a thermoplastic resin film by which vertical extension was carried out is smaller than 20 nm, Since great stress is needed for converting a lagging axis into a TD direction of a thermoplastic resin film when lateral orientation is carried out, and it becomes difficult to reveal optically biaxial and exceeds 150 nm, vertical extension is performed so that a phase difference value may be set to 20–150 nm, but it is 50–100 nm preferably. [0027]

In a stage which performed vertical extension, a lagging axis has turned to the extension direction (MD directions of a thermoplastic resin film) of a thermoplastic resin film.

[0028]

Although lateral orientation of the thermoplastic resin film by which vertical extension was carried out is carried out next, generally tenter extension of the lateral orientation is carried out. Namely, a width direction end of a thermoplastic resin film by which vertical extension was carried out is held with a tenter clip, Lateral orientation of the thermoplastic resin film by which vertical extension was carried out is carried out by advancing a tenter clip holding a width direction end of a thermoplastic resin film along with a tenter rail installed so that an interval might open gradually.

[0029]

A range of an advancing angle of a thermoplastic resin film end in the case of this lateral orientation is 8 to 20 degrees to a direction of movement of a thermoplastic resin film before extension at outwardness. That is, an extension angle of a tenter rail is made into 8 to 20 degrees, and is widened.

[0030]

If it becomes small, the Boeing will occur, a lagging axis will not convert, and this angle is that (it becomes width 1 axis products) which lateral orientation will become dominant and in which optically biaxial will disappear if it becomes large, is limited to 8 to 20 degrees, and is 10 to 15 degrees preferably.

[0031]

It is carrying—out [continue]—distance maintenance necessity of 2.0 times or more of width of a thermoplastic resin film before extension at the above—mentioned angle. The Boeing occurs that this distance is less than 2.0 times, uneven—ization of an orientation direction of a molecule takes place, and a phase difference compensation film with which minute liquid crystal orientation can be compensated is no longer obtained.

[0032]

The phase difference compensation film according to claim 4 is Claim 1. Since it is the phase difference compensation film manufactured with a manufacturing method of a phase difference compensation film given in 2 or 3, The Boeing is small, and 80 to 85% of a lagging axis after lateral orientation is needed for within the limits which is **1 time to film overall width, and the direction of a lagging axis has become crosswise [of a phase difference compensation film] (TD direction).

[0033]

The elliptical polarization film according to claim 5 is an elliptical polarization film which comes to laminate a phase difference compensation film according to claim 4 and a polarization film.

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[0034]

As the above-mentioned polarization film, what is necessary is just the polarization film currently generally used. On for example, a film which consists of vinyl alcohol system polymer, such as polyvinyl alcohol and partial formal-ized polyvinyl alcohol. If dyeing processing by dichroism substances, such as iodine and dichromatic dye, and stretching treatment, and available light by which crosslinking treatment was carried out are entered, arbitrary films which may penetrate linear polarization will be mentioned.

[0035]

A protective film from which a polarization film generally protects a polarization film to the one side or both sides is laminated.

[0036]

The above-mentioned protective film is transparent and a film excellent in a mechanical strength, thermal stability, moisture resistance, etc. is preferred, For example, films, such as cellulose triacetate, polyester system resin, polyether sulfone resin, polycarbonate resin, polyamide resin, polyimide resin, polyolefin resin, and an acrylic resin, are mentioned.

[0037]

[0038]

The liquid crystal display according to claim 6 is a liquid crystal display which used at least one sheet of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 4.

The above-mentioned liquid crystal displays are conventionally publicly known arbitrary liquid crystal displays, such as a transmission type and a reflection type which arrange the above-mentioned elliptical polarization film to one side or both sides of a liquid crystal cell, or type both

for a penetration / reflective.

[0039]

Therefore, conventionally publicly known arbitrary liquid crystal cells, such as a simple-matrix-driving type represented by an active-matrix drive type thing, a twist nematic type, and a super twist nematic type which are represented by thin film transistor type, for example, are mentioned also for a liquid crystal cell which forms a liquid crystal display.

[0040]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Hereafter, although working example of this invention is described, it is not limited to the following example.

[0041]

(Working example 1, comparative examples 1-5)

Thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin (the Nippon Zeon Co., Ltd. make, trade name "ZEONOA#1600") was supplied to the monopodium melting extrusion machine with which the T die was installed, melting extrusion was carried out at 230 **, and with 1000 mm in width and an average thickness of 100 micrometers long thermoplasticity saturation norbornene system resin was obtained.

[0042]

It was 161.0 ** when the glass transition temperature of the obtained long thermoplasticity saturation norbornene system resin film was measured using the differential-scanning-

calorimetry device (the SEIKO electronic industry company make, trade name "DSC220C"). [0043]

The obtained long thermoplasticity saturation norbornene system resin film was supplied to the length uniaxial-stretching device between rolls, was extended 1.5 times, and the phase difference compensation film which has the retardation values shown in Table 1 was obtained. The width of the obtained film was 810 mm.

[0044]

The retardation value of the obtained vertical uniaxial stretched film was measured, and it was shown in Table 1. The retardation value was measured at intervals of 1 cm to the TD direction using the double reflex meter (prince measuring machine machine company make, trade name "KOBRA-21ADH"), and average value showed it.

[0045]

Next, the obtained vertical uniaxial stretched film was supplied to the tenter clip type tenter which has a preheating zone, an extension zone, and a cooling zone, lateral orientation was performed in the predetermined extension angle and extension distance which were shown in Table 1, and the phase difference compensation film was obtained. As for the temperature of the preheating zone, the temperature of 155 ** and an extension zone set the temperature of the cooling zone as 120 ** 165 degrees.

[0046]

The lagging-axis angular accuracy and Nz coefficient of the phase difference compensation film which were obtained were measured at intervals of 5 mm to the TD direction using the double reflex meter (prince measuring machine machine company make, trade name "KOBRA-21ADH"), and the result was shown in Table 1.

[0047]

Lagging-axis angular accuracy showed the ratio by which the degree of shift angle to the TD direction of the lagging axis in each point of measurement is contained in less than **1.0 degrees by percentage.

[0048]

[Table 1]

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		実施例1	上軸対列]	上域列2	1 上域列 2 上域列 3 上域列 4 上域列	上域例4	比較列 5
統一軸延伸フィルムのレターデーシ ョン値 (nm)	レターデージ	0 9	0 9	09 09	0 9	60 10 180	180
横延伸角度 (度)		1 2	3	2.5	1.2	12 12	1.2
横延伸四離(フィルム幅の倍数)	幅の倍数)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0 3.0 3.0 1.5 3.0 3.	3.0	3.0
位相差補償」遅相軸角	堅相軸角度精度(%)	85.3	65.0	87.1	85.3 65.0 87.1 61.0 82.9 63.	82.9	63.0
フィルム NZ係数		2.5		1.5	2. 5 1. 1 1. 5 2. 0 1. 1 1. 8		1.8

[0049]

Since the phase difference compensation film obtained by the comparative example 1 has the small extension angle of a lateral orientation process, lagging axes continue being MD directions. [0050]

Since the phase difference compensation film obtained by the comparative example 2 had too large the extension angle of the lateral orientation process, its width 1 axis was dominant. [0051]

Since the phase difference compensation film obtained by the comparative example 3 had a short extension distance of a lateral orientation process, its Boeing was large, and its accuracy of the

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angle of a lagging axis was bad.

[0052]

The phase difference compensation film obtained by the comparative example 4 had too low the retardation value of the vertical uniaxial stretched film, and its width 1 axis was dominant. [0053]

The phase difference compensation film obtained by the comparative example 5 had too large the retardation value of the vertical uniaxial stretched film, and lagging axes continue being MD directions.

[0054]

[Effect of the Invention]

In serial biaxial stretching which carries out lateral orientation after carrying out vertical extension of the thermoplastic resin film since the composition of the manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 1 is as above—mentioned, There is little Boeing, and the direction of a lagging axis has turned to direction crossing at a right angle to the lengthwise direction of a film, and a phase difference compensation film with the sufficient accuracy of a lagging—axis angle can be manufactured efficiently.

[0055]

In the manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 2, since the direction of a lagging axis is the cross direction (TD direction) of a phase difference compensation film, the phase difference compensation film in which optically biaxial is more excellent is obtained.

[0056]

In the manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film according to claim 3, since thermoplastics is thermoplastic saturation norbornene system resin, the phase difference compensation film in which transparency is high, and optical uniformity is excellent in, and heat resistance and moisture resistance were excellent is obtained.

[0057]

The phase difference compensation film according to claim 4 is Claim 1. Since it is the phase difference compensation film manufactured with the manufacturing method of the phase difference compensation film given in 2 or 3, the direction of a lagging axis has turned to direction crossing at a right angle to the lengthwise direction of a film, and the accuracy of a lagging-axis angle is good.

[0058]

Since it comes to laminate a phase difference compensation film according to claim 4 and polarization film, the elliptical polarization film according to claim 5 can be used conveniently for an optical disc, a liquid crystal display, etc.

[0059]

The liquid crystal display according to claim 6 is the phase difference compensation film according to claim 4 At least 1 Since it is a ******* liquid crystal display, it can be conveniently used as a liquid crystal display for large-sized screens, such as a liquid crystal television and a monitor.

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(54) 【発明の名称】位相差補償フィルムの製造方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】本発明は、熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸した後に横延伸をする逐次二軸延伸に おいて、ボーイングが少なく、且つ、遅相軸方向がフィルムの縦方向に対して直交方向を 向いており、遅相軸角度の精度がよい位相差補償フィルムを効率よく製造する方法を提供

【解決手段】熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸した後に横延伸する逐次二軸延伸による位相 差補償フィルムの製造方法であって、縦延伸工程においてレターデーション値が20~1 50 nmになるように熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸し、横延伸工程において、熱可塑性 樹脂フィルム端部の進行角度を、拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの進行方向に対し外向き に8~20度の範囲とし、且つ、その状態を拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの幅の2倍以 上の距離保持し続けることを特徴とする位相差補償フィルムの製造方法。

【選択図】 なし

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸した後に横延伸する逐次二軸延伸による位相差補償フィルムの製造方法であって、縦延伸工程においてレターデーション値が20~150nmになるように熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸し、横延伸工程において熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを幅方向(TD方向)に変形する際に、熱可塑性樹脂フィルム端部の進行角度を、拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの進行方向に対し外向きに8~20度の範囲とし、且つ、その状態を拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの幅の2倍以上の距離保持し続けることを特徴とする位相差補償フィルムの製造方法。

【請求項2】

遅相軸方向が位相差補償フィルムの幅方向(TD方向)であることを特徴とする請求項1 記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法。

【請求項3】

熱可塑性樹脂が熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂であることを特徴とする請求項1又は2 記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法。

【請求項4】

請求項1、2又は3記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法で製造された位相差補償フィルム。

【請求項5】

請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムと偏光フィルムが積層されてなる楕円偏光フィルム。

【請求項6】

請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムを少なくとも1枚用いた液晶表示装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、位相差補償フィルムの製造方法、その製造方法で製造された位相差補償フィルム並びにそれを用いた楕円偏光フィルム及び液晶表示装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】

近年、液晶表示装置の表示品質は著しく向上しており、特に、液晶テレビやモニターとい 30 った大画面用途においては広視野角と高コントラストといった特徴を持つ垂直配向型液晶 (一般的にVA液晶と呼ばれる) が主流となりつつある。

[0003]

しかし、この液晶はその名の通り液晶が垂直に配向しているが為に、そこを通過した光を補償するためには屈折率楕円体が縦に短いもの、一般的に負アンパンと呼ばれる二軸性を持つ必要がある。ここでの位相差補償フィルムとは具体的にはNz係数で1.5以上のものを指し、より好ましくは2以上のものである。

[0004]

(尚、Nz = Re/Rth+0. 5 = |nx-nz|/|nx-ny|

$Re = |nx - ny| \times d$

 $Rth = [|nx + ny|/2 - nz] \times d$

ここで、nx、ny、nz はそれぞれ縦、横、深さ各方向の屈折率を表し、d は厚みを表す。通常の一軸延伸フィルムではx 方向に延伸した場合nx>ny=nz となりNz は 1 . 0 となる。)

[0005]

従来からこの位相差補償フィルムの製造方法は種々提案されてきているが、最近では、熱 可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸した後に横延伸をする逐次二軸延伸法が主流になってきてい る。

[0006]

しかし、上記逐次二軸延伸法によって位相差補償フィルムを製造すると、横延伸をする際 50

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に、所謂、ボーイングと呼ばれる、フィルムの端部と中心部での進行速度が異なることに より、幅方向に分子の配向方向の不均一化が起こり、液晶配向を精緻に補償しうる位相差 補償フィルムは得られなかった。

I00007I

この問題点を解決するために、横延伸をする際にテンターを用い、テンターのレールの開 き角度を10度以内にする低角度拡幅法が提案されている (例えば、特許文献1参照) が、この方法でもボーイング対策は不充分であり、光軸方向精度が±1度以内に収まる範 囲は横延伸後のTD幅の60~65%程度であった。

[0008]

【特許文献1】

特開2002-148438号公報

[0009]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

本発明は、上記従来技術の課題に鑑みてなされたものであり、熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦 延伸した後に横延伸をする逐次二軸延伸において、ボーイングが少なく、且つ、遅相軸方 向がフィルムの縦方向に対して直交方向を向いており、遅相軸角度の精度がよい位相差補 償フィルムを効率よく製造する方法を提供することを目的とする。

[0010]

又、異なる目的は、上記位相差補償フィルムを用いた楕円偏光板を提供することにある。 更に異なる目的は、上記位相差補償フィルムを用いた液晶表示装置を提供することにある 20

[0011]

【課題を解決するための手段】

請求項1記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法は、熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸した後 に横延伸する逐次二軸延伸による位相差補償フィルムの製造方法であって、縦延伸工程に おいてレターデーション値が20~150nmになるように熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延 伸し、横延伸工程において熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを幅方向(TD方向)に変形する際に、 熱可塑性樹脂フィルム端部の進行角度を、拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの進行方向に対 し外向きに8~20度の範囲とし、且つ、その状態を拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの幅 の2倍以上の距離保持し続けることを特徴とする。

[0012]

又、請求項2記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法は、遅相軸方向が位相差補償フィルム の幅方向 (TD方向) であることを特徴とする請求項1記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造 方法である。

[0013]

請求項1記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法で製造された位相差補償フィルムは、ボー イングが小さく、横延伸後の遅相軸はフィルム全幅に対し80~85%が±1度の範囲内 にはいり、且つ、遅相軸方向は位相差補償フィルムの幅方向(TD方向)になる。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 4\]$

上記熱可塑性樹脂は、透明性の優れた熱可塑性樹脂であれば、特に限定されず、例えば熱 40 可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂、ポリカーボネート系樹脂、ポリサルフォン系樹脂、ポリ メタクリル酸メチル系樹脂、ポリスチレン系樹脂等が挙げられ、特に液晶とのマッチング 性や耐久性に優れ、波長分散性が低く、光弾性係数が小さい熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系 樹脂が好適に用いられる。

[0015]

上記熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂は、従来より光学用途フィルムに使用されている樹 脂であって、例えば、(イ) ノルボルネン系モノマーの開環重合体若しくは開環共重合体 を、必要に応じてマレイン酸付加、シクロペンタジエン付加等の変性を行った後に、水素 添加した樹脂、(ロ)ノルボルネン系モノマーを付加重合させた樹脂、(ハ)ノルボルネ ン系モノマーとエチレンやα-オレフィン等のオレフィン系モノマーとを付加重合させた 50

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樹脂、(二) ノルボルネン系モノマーとシクロペンテン、シクロオクテン、5,6-ジヒドロジシクロペンタジエン等の環状オレフィン系モノマーと付加重合させた樹脂及びこれらの樹脂の変性物等が挙げられる。

[0016]

上記熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂を構成するノルボルネン系モノマーとしては、例え ば、ノルボルネン、5-メチル-2-ノルボルネン、5-エチル-2-ノルボルネン、5 ーブチルー2ーノルボルネン、5ーエチリデンー2ーノルボルネン、5ーメトキシカルボ ニルー2ーノルボルネン、5,5ージメチルー2ーノルボルネン、5ーシアノー2ーノル ボルネン、5-メチル-5-メトキシカルボニル-2-ノルボルネン、5-フェニル-2 -ノルボルネン、5 -フェニル-5 -メチル-2 -ノルボルネン、6 -メチル-1, 4: 5, 8-ジメタノ-1, 4, 4 a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8 a - オクタヒドロナフタレン、6 ドロナフタレン、6-エチル-1, 4:5, 8-エチリデン-1, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 7 , 8, 8a-179 + 79 + 79 + 79 + 79 + 19 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8a-x29ージメタノー1, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8aーオクタヒドロナフタレン、6ーピリ ナフタレン、6-メトキシカルボニルー1, 4:5, 8-ジメタノー1, 4, 4a, 5, 6.7.8.8a-x5. 8. 8 a. 9a-x+29 + x+1 , 5, 8, 8a-3p9ヒドロー2, 3-5pロペンタジエノナフタレン、4, 9:5,8-ジメタノ-3a, 4, 4a, 5, 8, 8a, 9, 9a-オクタヒドロ-1H-ベンゾ9, 9a, 10, 10a, 11, 11a-ドデカヒドロー1H-シクロペンタアントラセ ン、ジシクロペンタジエン、2.3-ジヒドロキシシクロペンタジエン、メタノオクタヒ ドロフルオレン、ジメタノヒドロオクタフルオレン等が挙げられる。

$\{0017\}$

上記熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂の数平均分子量は、小さくなると機械的強度が低下し、大きくなるとフィルム成形性が低下するので、テトラヒドロフラン系溶媒又はシクロヘキサン系溶媒によるゲル・パーミエーション・クロマトグラフィで測定して、5000~4000が好ましく、より好ましくは7000~35000であり、更に好ましくは8000~3000である。

[0018]

上記熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂は、極性基を有さないものとしては日本ゼオン社より商品名「ゼオノア」、極性基を有するものとしてはジェイエスアール社より商品名「アートン」として上市されている。

[0019]

上記熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂には、位相差補償フィルムの耐熱性、耐紫外線性、 平滑性等を向上させるために、フェノール系、リン系などの老化防止剤、フェノール系な どの熱劣化防止剤、アミン系などの帯電防止剤、脂肪族アルコールのエステル、多価アル コールの部分エステルなどの滑剤、ベンゾフェノン系、ベンゾトリアゾール系などの紫外 線吸収剤等が添加されても良い。

[0020]

上記熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂フィルムの製造方法は公知の任意の方法が採用されてよく、例えば、押出機で加熱溶融して押出成形する方法、上記熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂を沸点100℃以上の有機溶媒に溶解し、溶液流延する方法等が挙げられる。

[0021]

上記有機溶媒としては、例えば、トルエン、キシレン、エチルベンゼン、クロロベンゼン、トリエチルベンゼン、ジエチルベンゼン、イソプロピルベンゼン等が挙げられる。

[0022]

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又、上記有機溶媒に熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂を溶解しうる範囲内において、シクロヘキサン、ベンゼン、テトラヒドロフラン、ヘキサン、オクタン等の低沸点溶媒を混合して使用してもよい。

[0023]

請求項1記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法においては、熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを縦延伸した後に横延伸をする。

[0024]

上記縦延伸は、従来公知の任意の延伸方法が採用されてよく、一般に、ロール間ネックイン延伸が行われる。延伸温度は、使用する熱可塑性樹脂により異なるが、一般に、熱可塑性樹脂のガラス転移温度~ガラス転移温度+10℃の範囲が好ましい。

[0025]

縦延伸倍率は、1.1倍未満であると変形量が少ないため、熱可塑性樹脂の分子の配向方向が揃いにくく、その結果、遅相軸方向がばらつくようになるので、1.1倍以上が好ましい。

[0026]

縦延伸された熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの位相差値が 20 nmより小さいと、横延伸した際に二軸性が発現しにくくなり、150 nmを超えると遅相軸を熱可塑性樹脂フィルムのTD 方向に転換するのに多大の応力が必要となるので、縦延伸は位相差値が $20\sim150$ nmになるように行われるが、好ましくは $50\sim100$ nmである。

[0027]

尚、縦延伸を行った段階では、遅相軸は熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの延伸方向(熱可塑性樹脂フィルムのMD方向)を向いている。

[0028]

縦延伸された熱可塑性樹脂フィルムは、次に横延伸されるが、横延伸は一般にテンター延伸される。即ち、縦延伸された熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの幅方向端部をテンタークリップで保持し、次第に間隔が開くように設置されたテンターレールに沿って、熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの幅方向端部を保持したテンタークリップを前進させることにより、縦延伸された熱可塑性樹脂フィルムを横延伸する。

[0029]

この横延伸の際の熱可塑性樹脂フィルム端部の進行角度は、拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィル 30 ムの進行方向に対し外向きに $8\sim2$ 0 度の範囲である。即ち、テンターレールの拡幅角度 を $8\sim2$ 0 度にして拡幅する。

[0030]

この角度は小さくなると、ボーイングが発生し、遅相軸が転換しなくなり、大きくなると 横延伸が支配的になり二軸性が消失する(横一軸製品となる)ので、8~20度に限定され、好ましくは10~15度である。

[0031]

又、上記角度で拡幅前の熱可塑性樹脂フィルムの幅の2.0倍以上の距離保持し続けること必要である。この距離が2.0倍未満であるとボーイングが発生し、分子の配向方向の不均一化が起こり、精緻な液晶配向を補償しうる位相差補償フィルムは得られなくなる。

[0032]

請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムは、請求項1 、2又は3記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法で製造された位相差補償フィルムであるから、ボーイングが小さく、横延伸後の遅相軸はフィルム全幅に対し80~85%が±1度の範囲内にはいり、且つ、遅相軸方向は位相差補償フィルムの幅方向(TD方向)になっている。

[0033]

請求項5記載の楕円偏光フィルムは、請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムと偏光フィルムが積層されてなる楕円偏光フィルムである。

[0034]

上記偏光フィルムとしては、一般に使用されている偏光フィルムであればよく、例えば、

ポリビニルアルコール、部分ホルマール化ポリビニルアルコール等のビニルアルコール系ポリマーからなるフィルムに、ヨウ素、二色性染料等の二色性物質による染色処理及び延伸処理、架橋処理された、自然光を入射すると直線偏光を透過しうる任意のフィルムが挙げられる。

[0035]

尚、偏光フィルムは、一般に、その片面もしくは両面に偏光フィルムを保護する保護フィルムが積層されている。

[0036]

上記保護フィルムは、透明で、機械的強度、熱安定性、耐湿性等に優れたフィルムが好ましく、例えば、三酢酸セルロース、ポリエステル系樹脂、ポリエーテルスルホン樹脂、ポリカーボネート樹脂、ポリアミド樹脂、ポリイミド樹脂、ポリオレフィン樹脂、アクリル樹脂等のフィルムが挙げられる。

[0037]

請求項6記載の液晶表示装置は、請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムを少なくとも1枚用いた液晶表示装置である。

[0038]

上記液晶表示装置は、上記楕円偏光フィルムを液晶セルの片面又は両面に配置してなる透過型や反射型、或いは透過・反射両用型等の従来公知の任意の液晶表示装置である。

[0039]

従って、液晶表示装置を形成する液晶セルも、例えば、薄膜トランジスタ型に代表される ²⁰ アクティブマトリックス駆動型のもの、ツイストネマチック型やスーパーツイストネマチック型に代表される単純マトリックス駆動型等従来公知の任意の液晶セルが挙げられる。

[0040]

【発明の実施の形態】

以下、本発明の実施例について説明するが、下記の例に限定されるものではない。

[0041]

(実施例1、比較例1~5)

熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂(日本ゼオン社製、商品名「ゼオノア#1600」)を Tダイの設置された単軸溶融押出機に供給し、230℃で溶融押出して、幅1000mm 、平均厚み100μmの長尺熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂を得た。

$[0 \ 0 \ 4 \ 2]$

得られた長尺熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂フィルムのガラス転移温度を、示差走査熱量測定装置(セイコー電子工業社製、商品名「DSC220C」)を用いて測定したところ、161.0℃であった。

[0043]

得られた長尺熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂フィルムを、ロール間縦一軸延伸装置に供給し、1.5倍に延伸して、表1に示したレターデーション値を有する位相差補償フィルムを得た。得られたフィルムの幅は810mmであった。

[0044]

又、得られた縦一軸延伸フィルムのレタデーション値を測定して表 1 に示した。レタデー 40 ション値は複屈折計(王子計測機器社製、商品名「KOBRA-21ADH」)を用いて TD方向に 1 c m間隔で測定し、平均値で示した。

[0045]

次に、得られた縦一軸延伸フィルムを予熱ゾーン、拡幅ゾーン及び冷却ゾーンを有するテンタークリップ式横延伸機に供給し、表1に示した所定の拡幅角度及び拡幅距離で横延伸を行い位相差補償フィルムを得た。尚、予熱ゾーンの温度は155 %、、拡幅ゾーンの温度は165 %、冷却ゾーンの温度は120 %に設定した。

[0046]

得られた位相差補償フィルムの遅相軸角度精度とNz係数を複屈折計(王子計測機器社製 、商品名「KOBRA-21ADH」)を用いてTD方向に5mm間隔で測定し、結果を 50

表1に示した。

[0047]

尚、遅相軸角度精度は、各測定点における遅相軸の、TD方向に対するズレ角度が±1.0度以内に入っている比率を百分率で示した。

[0048]

【表 1】

		実施例1	比較例 1	上域效例 2	比較例3	比較例 4	上域效例 5
統一軸延伸フョン値	延伸フィルムのレターデーシ 60 (nm)	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 9	60 10 180	180
横延伸角度	(度)	1.2	33	2 5	1.2 1.2	1.2	1.2
横延伸曙((近く中国 (フィルム幅の倍数)	3.0	3.0 3.0 3.0 1.5	3.0	1.5	3.0	3.0
位相差補質	(壁村軸角度精度(%) 85.3 65.0 87.1 61.0 82.9 63.	85.3	65.0	87.1	61.0	8 2. 9	63.0
フィルム Nz係数	Nz係数	2.5		1. 1 1. 5	2.0	2.0 1.1 1.8	1.8

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[0049]

比較例1で得られた位相差補償フィルムは、横延伸工程の拡幅角度が小さいため遅相軸が MD方向のままであった。

[0050]

比較例2で得られた位相差補償フィルムは、横延伸工程の拡幅角度が大きすぎたため横一軸が支配的であった。

[0051]

比較例3で得られた位相差補償フィルムは、横延伸工程の拡幅距離が短いためボーイング 50

が大きく、遅相軸の角度の精度が悪かった。

[0 0 5 2]

比較例4で得られた位相差補償フィルムは、縦一軸延伸フィルムのレタデーション値が低すぎて横一軸が支配的であった。

[0053]

比較例5で得られた位相差補償フィルムは、縦一軸延伸フィルムのレタデーション値が大きすぎて遅相軸がMD方向のままであった。

[0054]

【発明の効果】

請求項1記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法の構成は上述の通りであるから、熱可塑性 ¹⁰ 樹脂フィルムを縦延伸した後に横延伸をする逐次二軸延伸において、ボーイングが少なく、且つ、遅相軸方向がフィルムの縦方向に対して直交方向を向いており、遅相軸角度の精度がよい位相差補償フィルムを効率よく製造することができる。

[0055]

請求項2記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法では、遅相軸方向が位相差補償フィルムの幅方向(TD方向)であるから、二軸性がより優れている位相差補償フィルムが得られる

[0056]

請求項3記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法では、熱可塑性樹脂が熱可塑性飽和ノルボルネン系樹脂であるから、透明性が高く光学的均一性が優れており、且つ、耐熱性及び耐 20 湿性が優れた位相差補償フィルムが得られる。

$[0\ 0\ 5\ 7\]$

請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムは、請求項1 、2又は3記載の位相差補償フィルムの製造方法で製造された位相差補償フィルムであるから、遅相軸方向がフィルムの縦方向に対して直交方向を向いており、遅相軸角度の精度がよい。

$[0\ 0\ 5\ 8\]$

請求項5記載の楕円偏光フィルムは、請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムと偏光フィルムが積層されてなるので、光ディスク、液晶表示装置等に好適に使用できる。

【0059】

請求項6記載の液晶表示装置は、請求項4記載の位相差補償フィルムを少なくとも1 枚 ³⁰ 用いた液晶表示装置であるから、液晶テレビやモニター等の大型画面用の液晶表示装置として好適に使用できる。